

sinister Holstein is wittily compared to a watchdog who defends the house against burglars, though one could not be sure that he would not occasionally bite his master in the leg. The energy and ability of Tirpitz are frankly recognized, but we are assured that he had no head for politics. We often meet the fascinating Eulenburg, whose letters are a delight; but there is usually an undercurrent of criticism, which prepares us for the *debacle* in the second volume. In the Foreign Secretaries, with the exception of Richthofen, he finds little to praise, and he allows himself to describe Jagow as "small in body and mind." The bitterest attacks are reserved for Count Monts, whose incisive letters fill a larger space than those of anyone else. His offence appears to have been that, after extravagant and interested laudations of Bulow in the years of his power, he turned against him after his fall. The only error to which the Prince pleads guilty is in consenting against his better judgment to the appointment of Monts to the Embassy at Rome. The ex-Ambassador lived just long enough to learn of the posthumous revenge of his old patron, but not long enough to reply.

Bülow peppers his pages with caustic comments on the men who, as he sees it, dissipated the opulent heritage he had left. Every mention of the name of Bethmann Hollweg is the signal for expressions of contempt. In his own apologia, Bethmann hinted pretty plainly that the fourth Chancellor had left him a bad pack of cards. Bulow at once retaliated in an open letter to the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, and in his Memoirs he throws all reserve to the winds. Bethmann is denounced as the Minister who with the ultimatum to Servia and his blundering diplomacy committed the most terrible error in the history of Germany and one of the greatest errors in the

history of the world. Signing a blank cheque to Vienna was crazy, and the unhappy phrase "a scrap of paper" was the equivalent of a lost battle. The war ended as badly as it began, for the Kaiser should have sought and found an honourable death on the battlefield when all was lost. Of the Emperor Karl, Er2berger, and the Weimar Constitution he writes with disdain.

Amid this throng of bunglers and mediocrities stands Ger-many's fourth Chancellor as drawn by himself, steering the ship of state, so far as his impetuous master allowed, with effortless superiority. The six years covered in the first volume are tranquil enough, compared with the six that were to follow. The most controversial aspect of his activities